

need be under no fear whatever, for my master will by no means injure you. Nay, as a token of esteem, he has ordered that you should dine with him to-day."

This conversation tended to quiet their minds, and they immediately began to prepare for entertainment, which Joseph proposed to give them at noon. Their beasts were provided and agreeable to the custom of the country, they washed their feet. And now they were all busy in getting ready the present which they brought, that they might deliver it in order to the governor, upon his return.

At length Joseph arrived, with all his retinue, and after he had gone to his own apartment, they were permitted to enter, and obtained an audience. They approached him with their presents in the name of their father; and, as before, they bowed themselves down even to the ground.

And Joseph, with much more familiarity than he used towards them yet, asked them of their welfare, and concerning their journey, and of their families; and added, "Is your father well? Is the old man of whom ye spake to me? Is he yet alive?" And they answered him, saying, "Thy servant, our father, is yet alive; and he still enjoys good health." And as they spoke this, they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance to him. And thus was his dream fulfilled, when all his family bowed before him: and even his father was acknowledged his servant. (See the account of that dream in chapter 2.) No doubt this came into Joseph's mind, as soon as he saw them in that posture. And turning his face towards them, he saw his brother Benjamin; and said to the others, "Is this your brother, of whom ye spake to me before?" And when they answered it was, he said, "God be gracious to me, my son!" But he now found himself almost

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